



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at Freedom Park in the Mahlon Adams Pavilion, located at 2435 Cumberland Ave., Charlotte, NC 28203 at 6 p.m.

PRC MINUTES January 8, 2019

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present: Heidi Pruess, Chair
Rick Winiker, Vice-Chair
Peter Engels, Executive Secretary
Sterling Martin
Brian Cox
Blanche Penn
Doug Burnett
Paul Freestone
Ann Harrison

PRC Absent: South 2 - Vacant
Southern Towns – Vacant
Mary Foxx Johnson
Rufus Kearney

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair, Heidi Pruess, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair, Heidi Pruess, welcomed all to the January 8, 2019 Park and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

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Public Appearance

City of Charlotte Comprehensive Plan

Taiwo Jaiyeoba, Director of Planning for the City of Charlotte, introduced himself as well as Garett Johnson, Assistant Planning Director for the City of Charlotte. Ms. Johnson then shared a PowerPoint presentation “Charlotte Future – 2040 Comprehensive Plan”. Their comprehensive plan is to guide growth and achieve the physical structure the Planning Department wants for Charlotte in 20 years.

The approach to the plan is based on the following key principles:

- Authentic and equitable Participation
- Interwoven Equity
- Integrated Framework for Growth, Development and Community Design

Elements of the plan include:

- Livable and Connected
- Inclusive
- Healthy and Sustainable
- Prosperous and Innovative
- Regional.

This presentation can be viewed here: [Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan](#)

Sr. Citizen Program Update

Lorraine Bias, Sr. Fiscal Administrator, gave an update on the Sr. Citizen Coupon pilot program, providing seniors with coupons to be used towards trips and programs.

- 436 coupons were disbursed
- 132 redeemed as of 12/31/18
 - Bette Rae Recreation Center had the most coupons used (61)
 - 98 coupons were utilized for park trips, which represents 74% of the actual utilization
 - Other coupon uses went towards yoga at the nature center, Bette Rae auction and aerobic classes
- The program will be monitored through June and will be re-evaluated for continuation of the program. A breakdown of how the program is communicated was requested.

Naming – Larry McAfee Cross Country Course at McAlpine Park

Mr. Tom Deming came before the PRC to share information about Larry McAfee and receive endorsement for naming the McAlpine Park Cross Country Race Course to “Larry McAfee Cross Country Course at McAlpine Park”. This application can be viewed here: [Larry McAfee Naming](#). Additional information regarding Larry McAfee can be viewed here: [Larry McAfee Info](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Winiker to endorse the naming of the McAlpine Park Cross Country Race Course to “Larry McAfee Cross Country Course at McAlpine Park”, which was seconded by Commissioner Martin and approved unanimously.

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This application will move forward to the BOCC to request that the Clerk to the Board post a notice of public hearing. Following the required notice, the application will go back on the BOCC agenda to open the public hearing and move to approve the naming.

Naming – Jackie Gregg Knuckles, Jr. Connector

James Williams, Park Planner, came before the PRC to receive endorsement to name the access easement at Eastway Community Park to “Jackie Gregg Knuckles, Jr. Connector”. This easement provides a critical connection from Eastway Community Park and the Eastway Regional Recreation Center to Briarwood Community Park and Briarwood Elementary School. The easement is located on property owned by James P. Knuckles, who has submitted a naming application to name the easement after his late grandson, Jackie Gregg Knuckles, Jr. The application can be viewed here: [Jackie Gregg Knuckles, Jr.](#)

Motion was made by Commissioner Cox to endorse the naming of the access easement at Eastway Community Park to “Jackie Gregg Knuckles, Jr. Connector”, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

This application will move forward to the BOCC to request that the Clerk to the Board post a notice of public hearing. Following the required notice, the application will go back on the BOCC agenda to open the public hearing and move to approve the naming.

Awards and Recognition:

None

Standing AC Reports and Appointments

Aquatics – Brian Cox

No Report

Athletics – Sterling Martin

No Report

Central – Peter Engels

No Report

Cooperative Extension – Rick Winiker

No Report

Golf – Mary Foxx Johnson

No Report

Greenways – Rick Winiker

Plans to look into the dirtway program

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North – Blanche Penn

Paul Freestone reported that the town of Davidson has made inquiry as to the possibility of funding from the \$200,000 allocated to the Department for invasive species removal to be used towards training Davidson staff on invasive management, particularly at Beatty Park. Discussion resulted in the following information:

- Chris Matthews, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, shared that the Department would be making an invasive species presentation to the County Manager's office.
- The Department has been working on invasive species removal for two decades and is ongoing. The special \$200,000 allocation will be used to show a positive impact in a small area, which may help lead to additional allocations for invasive removal.
- The \$200,000 allocation will be used in the current fiscal year.
- The Department has the capability to train volunteer groups on invasive removal who meet certain levels of manpower and expertise.

Appointment of the North Advisory Council applicant, David Reynolds, will be deferred to the March 12 PRC meeting.

South – Doug Burnett

No Report

Sr. Citizens – Rick Winiker

Terri Stowers, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, advised that Agency Member applicants do not have to go to a vote. **Holly Daniels** will be placed on the Sr. Citizen Advisory Council as the agency representative for PACE of the Southern Piedmont.

Stewardship – Heidi Pruess

No Report

PRC Chair Report

Chair Heidi Pruess reported on the following:

PRC Resolution on Funding Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Services: This resolution was reviewed and discussed by the Commissioners and staff. Discussion centered around adding a separated resolve for increased land acquisition funding with the final decision to keep the resolution as presented. This resolution can be viewed here: [Resolution on Funding Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Services](#)

Discussion points included:

- The Department currently has \$6 - \$9 million to spend on land with key land parcels identified for purchase.

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- It would be difficult to determine a specific increased dollar amount to request for future funding for land. The Department would be grateful for any additional funding above the current \$6.5 million annual allocation.
- The Department does have a land acquisition strategy:
 - Based on the Department's current level of service and all ranges of services provided, gap areas are identified, and the Department works with Asset and Facility Management and Real Estate Services to begin the process of identifying and acquiring the property needed to meet the community needs in those gap areas.
 - Pair the current strategy with a new Master Plan to guide us on how much land is needed.
- Based on the current population and anticipated future population, the PRC feel it is important that the County makes sure the Department has the resources, staff and money for land acquisition.
- The Department will be making a presentation to the Executive Team on Park and Recreation's land acquisition strategy, which will include a short-term and long-term strategy.
 - Short-Term – Parcels that have been identified as a need and acquisition processes are moving forward
 - Long-Term – Reviewing gap areas based on growth and development and protection of natural areas. A new Master Plan and consultant with public input including Advisory Councils, the PRC, County Manager's office and the BOCC.
- PRC supports an increase in land acquisition funding that will support the Department's strategy in the FY2020 budget, including funding for necessary resources.
- Chair Pruess asked Director Jones if there was anything he would object to in the resolution. Director Jones replied that he felt the resolution bolstered and supported the efforts of the Department through staffing and funding to help achieve the goals of the Department effectively and efficiently.

Motion was made by Commissioner Winiker to approve the PRC Resolution on Funding Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Services, which was seconded by Commissioner Engels and approved unanimously.

Director's Report

Director Lee Jones reported on the following:

- **BOCC Annual Retreat:** The Department's presentation for the BOCC Annual Retreat includes many of the areas covered in the PRC Resolution. Director Jones feels we are on a parallel course.
- **Independence Park and Memorial Stadium:** Tying to complete the greenway
- **Promotions:** Bert Lynn is the new Division Director of Capital Planning and Greg Clemmer is the interim Division Director of Park Operations. Both introduced themselves and shared information about their work history and background.

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Al Bangoura, currently the Superintendent of Community Recreation, has taken a position as Director of Minneapolis Parks and Recreation and will be leaving Mecklenburg County on Friday.

Consent

Motion was made by Commissioner Winiker to approve all consent items, including the PRC minutes of November 7, 2018, which was seconded by Commissioner Cox and approved unanimously.

PRC Reports and Requests

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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